

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 AF-05 /032 R

66617
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APPROVED BY: AFR/CWR:FJSPENCER
AFR/CWR:OCYLKE

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R 150153Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 100681

AFDROUGHT FRO BAAS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAKAR 2483 SENT SECSTATE INFO BANJUL ROME
DATED MAY 9.

QUOTE

UNCLAS DAKAR 2483

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652N/A

SUBJ: US GRAIN ALLOCATIONS TO SAHEL-GAMBIA FOOD AID

ROME FOR FODAG

REF: A) DAKAR 1904
B) WOD MEMO TO FILES 3/10/74
C) LONDON 4605
D) STATE 078859

1. DATA RECEIVAD FROM WFP BANJUL/OTHER SOURCES DURING
RECENT FILED TRIP BY FFPO TENDING TO SUPPORT OR
CORROBORATE REPORTS THAT CONDITIONS IN THE GAMBIA,
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DESCRIBED UNDER REF B HAVE GENERALLY DETERIORATED.

2. ESTIMATES OF CROP SHORTFALLS I 1973 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND MT RICE WERE HARVESTED AGAINSE
NORMAL HARVEST IN EXCESS OF THIRTY THOUSAND MT
FIFTEEN THOUSAND MT SORGHUM/MILLET HARVESTED, AGAINST
NORMAL PRODUCTION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND. THESE FIGURES,
PROVIDED BY MIN AGRICQLTURE OF THE GAMBIA, SUPPORTED BY
UNDP STATISTICIAN IN BANJUL.

3. GAMBIA MAKING COMMERCIAL PURCHASE TEN THOUSAND MT
RICE IN EFFORT TO COMPENSATE FOR LOW PRODUCTION. THIS
PURCHASE, TOGETHER WITH PRESENT AID GRANT, THROUGH WFP,
OF TWO THOUSAND MT, STILL LEAVES AN UNCOVERED DEFICIT
OF SEVEN THOUSAND MT.

4.
CONCERNABOUT DEVELOPING SITUATION SHARED BY WFP,
US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BANJUL, AND FFPO. FOR ONE THING,
PURCHASE OF LARGE TONNAGE RICE CONSTITUTES A HEAVY
FINANCIAL BUEFEN WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS COUNTRY'S
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS; FOR ANOTHER, ALL INDICATIONS POINT
TO AN INFLUX OF REFUGEES, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR CATTLE,
DURING LEAN SEASON, FROM ADJOINING SAHELIAN COUNTRIES,
GIVEN PRESENCE GAMBIA RIVER, WHICH INCOMERS SEE AS AN OAUMSIS.
GOG, THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO FEEDING ITS OWN EXPANDED
POPULATMON OF 500,000 AND THE USUAL INFLUX OF SEASOMJ
WORKERS FROM SENEGAL/MAURITANIA, WILL HAVE TO SUSTAIN
THESE REFUGEES, THOUGH PRODUCTION IS NOT AT LEVEL WHICH
WOULD ENABLE IT TO COPE ADEQUATELY WITH ITS OWN
CITIZENRY'S NEEDS.

5. IN CIRCQMSTANCES, FFPO BELIEVES IT IMPERATIVE THAT
SITUATION BE IMMEDIATELY REVIEWED REF D SYMPATHETICALLY
CONTEXT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT THE WFP GRANT BE
INCREASED TO TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MT, AND THAT
A MATCHING GRANT (BILATERAL) BE MADE, AS RECOMMENDED
FOR SEQUENTIAL DELIVERIES, BOTH PRE AND POST RAINY
SEASON, TO BANJUL.
AGGREY UNQUOTE RUSH

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